

Spending cuts to gov begin now

JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Though little will change immediately if deep across-the-board spending cuts trigger, March 1, the long-term changes will be disastrous for the Defense Department, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said, here, Monday.

A sequestration mechanism in budget law requires the Pentagon to cut more than \$47 billion in spending for the rest of the fiscal year, which runs through Sept. 30, unless Congress agrees on and the president signs an alternative plan.

Still, Little said, there will be no discernible change March 2 if the cuts take effect March 1 — child care centers will operate, and schools and commissaries will open.

“This is not a government shutdown,” Little told reporters this morning. “But it will start the erosion of our military readiness, and we will soon see impacts to bases and installations around the world.”

The services have told Congress about the dangers to readiness. Inside of a year, 60 percent of the Army brigade combat teams will be ineffective, Army officials have said. The Marine Corps would experience a similar degradation in capabilities. Cuts to operations and maintenance funds will hammer flying hours and steaming days, meaning Air Force squadrons, Navy ships, and aircraft will not be ready.

Further, some 800,000 Defense Department civilian employees stand to be furloughed without pay for up to 22 days through the end of the fiscal year. Pay and monetary benefits for service members, however, are exempt from sequestration.

DOD military and civilian officials have vowed that no one will be sent to a combat zone without the training and materials needed to succeed, but they have acknowledged that this will further constrain money for the base force.

The sequestration problem came up in meetings that Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta had with European allies at NATO headquarters in Brussels, last week. “Our partners and allies are very concerned about sequestration,” Little said. “This is an item that shouldn’t have to be on the agenda with foreign counterparts.”

Little rejected the notion that DOD has overstated the effects of sequestration.

“It is very clear, that from military readiness to partial impacts to military families and troops, that we’re looking at a very bleak set of scenarios if sequestration takes effect,” he said. “This is something we have been very forthright about for 18 months, and we will continue to express our opposition to a mechanism that will do harm to our national defense and could hollow out the force.”

(Editor’s note: This information is the most up-to-date as of press time, noon, Feb. 28.)

2nd SBCT conducts 1st CALFEX in decade

Story and photos by
STAFF SGT. SEAN EVERETTE
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

A combined arms live fire exercise (CALFEX), the first held on Oahu in more than a decade, was run here by 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team as one of the components of its recent brigade-wide

training exercise “Warrior Spear.”

“Most of the CALFEXes we do are on the Big Island at Pohakuloa Training Area,” said Capt. Jerry Wolfe, lead CALFEX planner and officer in charge. “Before now there was no maneuver area to do a CALFEX on Oahu, but with Range Division help, we were able to maneuver and get our training objectives met.”

A CALFEX is a complex operation that involves more than just Soldiers on the ground. By conducting this exercise now, 2nd Bde. made sure it would be prepared for any future operations.

“The worst thing we could do is have a compa-

See EX A-4



A Stryker gunner from 2nd Sqdn., 14th Cav. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, fires the mobile gun system on the combined arms live-fire lane during the brigade-wide exercise “Warrior Spear,” held in February at Schofield Barracks. The exercise worked all of 2nd SBCT’s warfighting functions in preparation for upcoming missions throughout the Pacific region.



A squad of 2nd Sqdn., 14th Cav. Regt. Soldiers advances to its objective on the combined arms live fire-lane. The CALFEX, or combined arms live-fire exercise, is the first in 10 years on Oahu, and was made possible by using existing ranges on Schofield Barracks.

Tripler opens single family room NICU

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
Public Affairs Office

HONOLULU — Tripler Army Medical Center celebrated the grand opening of its single family room Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, here, Feb. 14.

The NICU, which has been under renovation for more than two years, was the result of more than 10 years of planning.

“(Today) is a big milestone for not only Army medicine, but certainly for the Tripler ohana as we open phase two of this single family room NICU,” said Brig. Gen. Dennis Doyle, commander, Pacific Regional Medical Command and TAMC, in his opening remarks. “I appreciate all of you coming here to mark this really significant day.”

The NICU is equipped now with 19 single family rooms with 22 beds, including three rooms dedicated to caring for twins.

It is the first single family room NICU not only within the state of Hawaii, but also the Department of Defense.

A soft opening was celebrated April 3, 2012, when the first phase of renovations was completed. The construction was completed in two phases in order to keep the NICU operational.

See NICU A-3



TAMC celebrates the grand opening of its single family room Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Feb. 14, with a traditional Hawaiian ceremony that includes a blessing and the untying of a maile lei. (From left) Patricia Wilhelm, nurse manager, NICU, TAMC; Dr. (Col.) Sarah Lentz-Kapua, assistant chief, Department of Pediatrics, TAMC; Brig. Gen. Dennis Doyle, commander, Pacific Regional Medical Command and TAMC; Dr. (Maj.) Joseph Hudak, chief, Neonatal Intensive Care Medicine, TAMC; and Kahu Kordell Kekoa, spiritual director, Religious Services program, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama, gather for the untying grand opening. (Photo by Soraya Robello, TAMC Visual Information)

Purple Heart | A-3

Medal awarded after 10 years, two deployments, two promotions.



Afghani culture | A-4

Realizing you don’t know as much as you think you know spurs discussion.

Invasion! | B-1

Natural resource managers do daily battle against invasive species.

Swamp Romp | B-5

8th TSC confronts mud crawl obstacle course at K-Bay.





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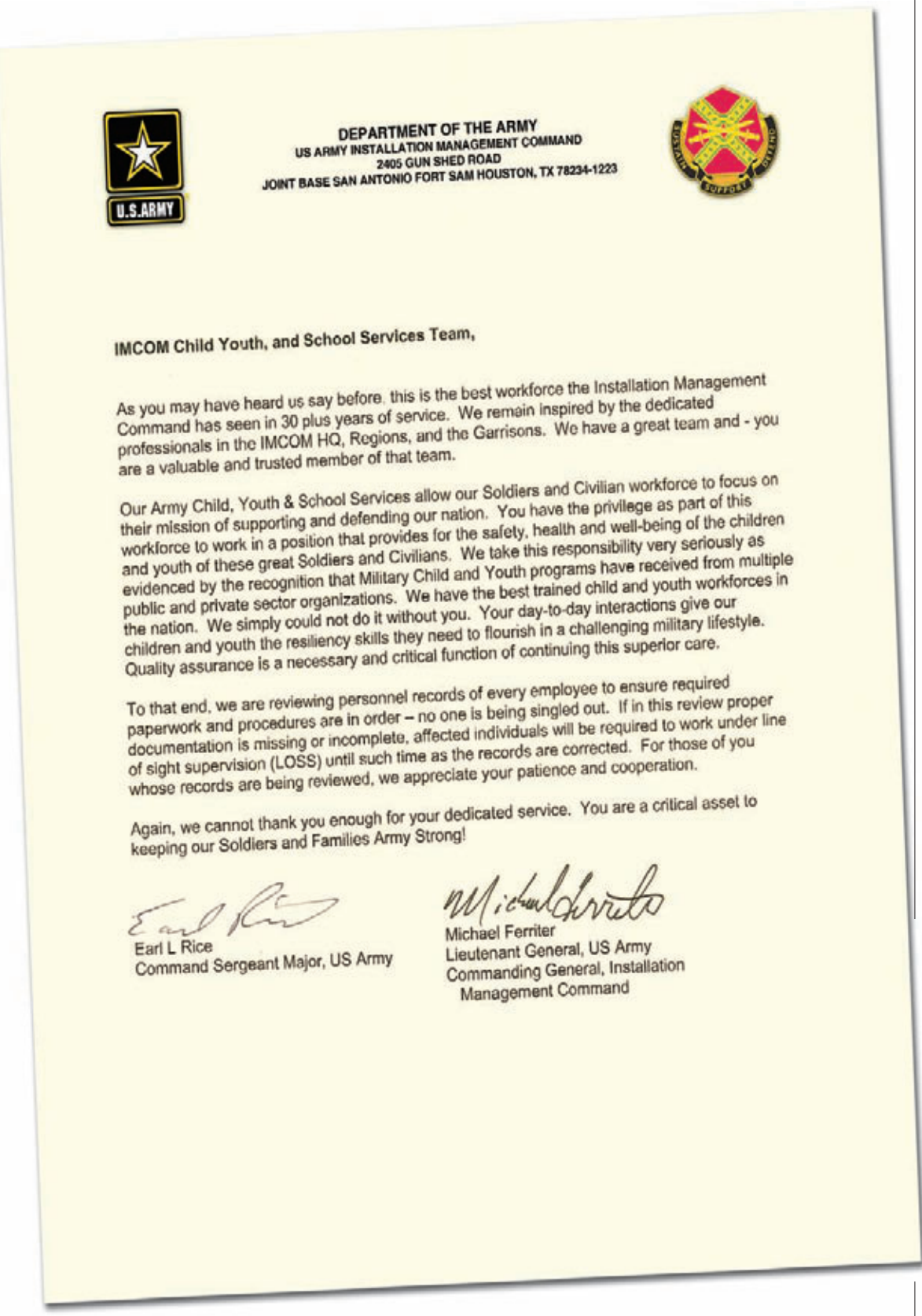
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CYSS undergoes records review



BACKTOBASICS

Soldiers are forged like a sword

Great warriors are crafted like weapons

MASTER SGT. ANTHONY WYATT
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

FORT SHAFTER — For the past decade, the basics have been associated with being able to simultaneously shoot, move and communicate with your fellow Soldiers as one.

But what are the basics now that war is winding down?

Are the basics now rudimentary Soldier tasks like conducting police call, polishing boots and pressing uniforms? Perhaps, as some may believe, they are more generalized concepts, such as strictly enforcing policies and standards and getting back in touch with the roots of our customs, courtesies and traditions.

For me, getting back to the basics is a much simpler thing than all of that. It is fostering an environment of discipline, where no one element of Soldiering is more important than any other.

Let us examine how a typical sword-

smith made a sword: Begin with raw metal in a rough form and under intense heat; hammer the glowing hot metal against an anvil into the desired shape. The process of heating, hammering, re-heating and folding the metal is repeated over and over again. The metal becomes denser, stronger and more resilient as it is forged.

At one point, the smithy begins to sharpen the blade, which makes the blade a deadly force to be wielded on the battlefield.

In keeping with customs and traditions, if you wished to learn the art of the swordsmith, you would first have to become an apprentice at a local forge.

Our 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command leaders strive to do the same thing with new Soldiers. As we gain Soldiers, their assigned sponsors immediately introduce them to our policies and procedures, and unit battle rhythm, and then insert them into the training schedule where they will simultaneously learn the methods and regulations in a way that enables them to pass it on to the next new Soldier.

As the swordsmith does with raw metal, so do leaders at the 94th AAMDC endeavor to light the fire of our Soldiers' wills with ruthless determination and forge them in the fires of self-discipline, motivation and esprit de corps. We attempt to mold our Sol-

diers with rules and regulations after laying down the hammer of standards, keeping them in the proper shape and making them stronger.

Finally, we hone our Soldiers' minds and bodies through our intense training and competitions. These methods keep 94th AAMDC Soldiers razor-sharp and ready to perform on the modern battlefield.

Gen. George Patton said, "There is only one type of discipline: perfect discipline," and, "No sane man is unafraid in battle, but discipline produces in him a form of vicarious courage."

I believe Patton would agree that getting back to the basics means instilling discipline and promoting healthy competition as we train.

For the 94th AAMDC, getting back to the basics means shifting focus to our Soldiers' minds and bodies to shape them into a well-trained, lethal, modern combat force. It means taking the experiences of those who were on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan and passing them on to our future Army leaders through the traditions of apprenticeship and leading by example.

Like the basics of forging cold, hard, tempered steel, these are the basics that make us Army Strong.

(Wyatt is the operations training noncommissioned officer in charge for the 94th AAMDC.)



Wyatt

— FOOTSTEPS — in FAITH

Catchy tune offers good life advice

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) CARLOS WHITLEY

1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team

Back in 1988, a particular song had everybody humming its catchy little tune.

You may recall it (if you are old like me).

"Here's a little song I wrote; you might want to sing it note for note, Don't worry; be happy. In every life we have some trouble; when you worry, you make it double. Don't worry; be happy."

Bobby McFerrin hit upon a much-needed attitude during that time, and it is needed now as well.

We worry about all kinds of things. Will we have a job in the near future? Will our children be well cared for? Will we even have a nation that is free and



Whitley

powerful to protect us from those who would do us harm?

Our worries are no different from the concerns of past generations. Even ancient peoples of the First Century worried about the same things we do. The Apostle Paul talked about this worry when he wrote to the Church in Philippi, stating, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

Notice that he tells them not to be anxious. Anxiety comes when we want desperately for certain outcomes in our lives. We often think that certain things have to happen for us to be happy, but we rarely have any control over how things will turn out. We want what we want, even if it is not the best thing for us.

The cure for anxiety is twofold. One, we need to present our requests before our God. If we truly believe that God loves us and wants what is best for us, then bringing him our problems seems like the best course of action.

By bringing him what concerns us, we are in a way saying to him, that this request is what we want, but we will accept his best plan and direction, even if it differs from what we desire. When we offer up this submissive attitude, much of our worry goes by the wayside, for then we know that, come what may, God has our best in mind. Peace then becomes our ally and friend.

Once we submit our decisions to God's best plans, instead of our own, we can then move to the second step for curing anxiety: an attitude of thanksgiving.

Have you ever seen someone who is truly thankful for the many good things in his or her life be depressed? It is very difficult to be anxious when we move through life with a thankful attitude. Knowing that God has our best in store should cause us to be thankful that he is so concerned for us.

Bobby McFerrin must have been onto something those years ago. "Don't worry, be happy."

Life will bring its troubles, but when we worry, we will only make the trouble seem double, so don't worry. Instead, try bringing your prayer requests to God with a thankful heart.

Voices of Ohana

March is National Women's History Month

"Who is your strong female role model?"

Photos by 500th Military Intelligence Brigade



"Ellen DeGeneres."

Staff Sgt. Robert Boatwright
Paralegal specialist, 500th MI Bde.



"My mother. She has taught me to be a good person, and if I can be half the mom she was, I think that is a success."

Maj. Hwajin Clark
Human resources officer, 500th MI Bde.



"My mom."

Spc. Jordan Cooperrider
Human resources specialist, HHD, 500th MI Bde.



"Mother Theresa, because she epitomizes selfless service and dedicated her whole life to charity."

Sgt. 1st Class Lorie Jansen
Victim advocate, 500th MI Bde.



"My mother."

Spc. Steven Lukas
Signals support system specialist, HHD, 500th MI Bde.

CW4 receives Purple Heart

Story and photo by
STAFF SGT. GAELN LOWERS
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — His co-workers describe him as a quiet professional who is at the top of the knowledge pool in his field, yet willing to work with Soldiers at all levels.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mason Dearing is a father of two, a native of Peoria, Ill., and the senior maintenance technician for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command’s logistical support section, which is responsible for all maintenance issues spanning from Korea to Alaska to Hawaii.

“You get some of those people in the Army that are flashy and show-boaters. We call them spotlight rangers,” said Lt. Col. Michael Legler, assistant chief of staff, 8th TSC. “That is the total opposite of Mr. Dearing. He’s a blue-collar, hard-working professional, very dependable. He is what I want in a warrant officer.”

The 24-year Army veteran spent approximately five years in deployed environments. He’s seen his share of combat, complete with rockets, mortars and improvised explosive devices. One such blast brought him to death’s door and changed his life forever.

“The IEDs at the time were pretty intense; they were going off as soon as we would leave the gate,” he said, when describing his 2003 deployment to Ramadi, Iraq. “We had no up-armored vehicles during that time; we had to make our own doors, so we started cutting our own metals and putting on the doors ourselves.”

Dearing made frequent trips outside of the forward operating base’s gates with his team handling maintenance throughout the Sunni Triangle, a densely populated region of Iraq to the northwest of Baghdad, inhabited mostly by Sunni Muslim Arabs. But, he said, this trip was different.

“We were getting ready to go out the gate, and my major and a couple other guys looked at me in the back seat and said, ‘Chief, are you ready?’ I

could see something in everybody’s eyes.”

The group was about five miles from the gate when the IED went off. The impact of the blast blew the vehicle’s windows out.

“The blast was so loud and very intense. We wobbled off the road and immediately checked each other out to see what injuries we sustained,” Dearing said.

Initially, no one appeared to be hurt. They brought the vehicle back to base and went through the mandatory checkups that Soldiers receive after incidents.

“When I was getting checked out, I had a headache. I had stuff coming out of my ears, and my heart wasn’t beating right,” Dearing said. “Being an athlete my whole life and coming into the Army, I knew that something was wrong. I could feel it.”

Dearing was released from the medical team to his quarters, but after hitting the sack, his heart stopped. He was immediately flown to Baghdad and landed directly into a mass casualty event.

“The hospital was really ramped up,” he said. “At this point during the war, the enemy was attacking ambulances and shooting at the wounded.”

The medical teams at Baghdad used what equipment they had to test Dearing, but were unable to determine the cause of his heart palpitations. He saw a cardiologist when he redeployed to Fort Riley, Kan.

A decade, two deployments, two promotions and a lot of paperwork later, Dearing found himself in the 8th TSC headquarters.

The Dearing family shed tears during the moving affirmation, as their Soldier was pinned with the Purple Heart Medal.

“This medal brings some closure for me. I know this represents more than just what I went through. It represents all the men and women who earned this award and may not have received it. This is as much for them as it is for me,” Dearing said.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mason Dearing, senior maintenance technician for the 8th TSC’s logistical support section, wipes his tears after Maj. Gen. Steven Lyons, commander, 8th TSC, presents him with the Purple Heart medal, at the 8th TSC headquarters, Feb. 13.

NICU: TAMC opens state-of-the-art unit

CONTINUED FROM A-1

“We wanted this NICU to have the latest design elements and the best state-of-the-art technology that was available to make it the safest NICU for patient care,” said Dr. (Col.) Sarah Lentz-Kapua, assistant chief, Department of Pediatrics, TAMC.

In part, what makes Tripler’s NICU unique is the noise reduction/soundproofing that has been installed in the ceiling and floor. Because most of the babies in an NICU would, under ideal conditions, still be in the mother’s womb, sound levels are kept to neonatal standards.

With dimmer light capabilities and a device to monitor sound levels, the rooms provide the optimal environment for babies’ hearing, growth and overall development.

“The most precious patients we have are those newborns, and the most precious of the precious

are those ones who really need the extra care that Dr. Lentz-Kapua and her whole team provide for up here,” Doyle said.

Technology that allows nurses to monitor rooms from other locations on the ward provides additional privacy for babies and their parents.

“(The monitor and nurse-call system) are really the cornerstone of safety for our precious little patients,” Lentz-Kapua said. “All the rooms are configured similarly to make it easier and safer to move from room to room and provide care. The care team and the families really find that the new environment is much quieter and a more calming place for patient care.”

NICU photos

View more photos online at www.flickr.com/TriplerAMC.



A Sri Lankan army engineer signals to U.S. Army-Pacific Soldiers that he has found a simulated mine during a demonstration of the Humanitarian Mining Action Program, to help the engineers enhance medical efforts and abilities with de-mining in the northern part of the country, an area where de-mining has been a main focus since 2003.

18th MEDCOM supports Sri Lankan de-mining team

Story and photo by
MASTER SGT. RODNEY JACKSON
18th Medical Command (DS) Public Affairs

VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka — Medical specialists from the 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support), based in Hawaii, led a joint mobile training team to the Sri Lankan army’s Camp Boo-Oya.

The camp is operated by a Humanitarian Demining Unit, in an area in the northern part of the country where mine removal has been a primary focus since 2003.

The team went Feb 18-22 to unfold the first phase of the Humanitarian Mining Action Program, which will help the Sri Lankan army enhance its medical efforts and ability with regional de-mining. The team instructed more than 100 engineers, medics and technicians in a medical first responder train-the-trainer course, explosive ordnance disposal and veterinary training, which will help engineers in their efforts to remove mines left from the country’s civil war, mines that still maim and kill innocent civilians.

“Humanitarian de-mining allows civilians to walk in these areas with comfort,” said Sri Lankan army Brig. Gen. Buwaneka Randiniya, commander, engineer brigade.

Randiniya welcomed the team after a traditional lighting of the oil lamp, a Sri Lanka cultural tradition signifying the wishes of prosperity for an event. He described the training as a milestone in the unit’s demining program efforts.

De-mining engineers, veterinarian assistants, dog handlers and medics trained with a joint team of medical specialists from 18th MEDCOM (DS) and Pacific Air Forces, veterinarian specialists from Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center, and EOD specialists from the 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

The medical first responder course trained de-miners and medics on how to give initial medical treatment to the injured, while the veterinary specialists provided training for mine detection dogs and EOD training focused on ordnance storage and

techniques of disposal.

“This first phase of training will build a true capacity and capability throughout the entire Sri Lankan Army,” said Sgt. Maj. David Galati, senior clinical operations non-commissioned officer, 18th MEDCOM (DS).

Galati added that the second phase will integrate a medical first responder course into the curriculum of the Sri Lankan army’s engineer school, a change that has been approved by the brigade commander. “Every engineer will get the medical first responder training,” he explained.

Galati said that de-miners and medics receiving this first phase of the medical first responder course will work side-by-side with U.S. Army trainers during the second phase and instruct the course themselves while being observed by U.S. trainers during the third phase. The de-miners will also receive more EOD and veterinary training during the second and third phase.

Engineers receiving the training were identified for additional duties as medics, veterinary assistants and EOD specialists in 2003 and 2004, and this training is the first refresher for many of them.

“De-mining has been ongoing since 2004, and post-war resettlement and demining went hand-in-hand,” said retired Commodore Travis Sinniah, Defense Cooperation officer and security specialist, Sri Lanka U.S. Embassy. “The de-mining level had to be stepped up, because people had to resettle. With non-government organizations leaving the country, the main effort went to the Sri Lankan army engineers, who have played a huge part in the effort.”

The ultimate goal is to see the Sri Lanka army self-training, and when it has completed its job helping the Sri Lankan people, it can go around the world to help others.

“A huge part of the mining operations is the mine detection dogs donated to the army by the Marshall Legacy Institute,” said Maj. Sudeera Talagala, veterinary surgeon, Sri Lankan army. “But before the department would donate the dogs, the army had to acquire a veterinarian to care for them.”

94th AAMDC runs SRP, readies to deploy

Story and photo by
SGT. LOUIS LAMAR
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command
Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — In February, the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command conducted the first part of its Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) at Schofield Barracks, and part two, here.

“The most important part of Soldiers going through SRP is to ensure that Soldiers are both administratively and medically ready to deploy,” said 1st Lt. Richard Eriksson, executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 94th AAMDC. “That means that whatever processing they need to do for the region of deployment gets done along with updating their will, Service Members Group Life Insurance and Record of Emergency Data.”

The SRP was held in order to verify individual Soldier readiness and to prepare the command to deploy to the Republic of Korea for a training

Your SRP and Army Regulation 600-8-101

Chapter 4 states that SRP requires commanders to maximize Soldier readiness by identifying and correcting non-deployment conditions. Personnel processing requirements include checking the status of individual Soldier readiness during in-processing, at least once annually, during out-processing and within 30 days before an actual unit deployment date or the date an individual Soldier departs on a permanent change of station, or PCS move.

exercise.

“I strongly believe that the SRP process is a readiness tool,” said Sgt. Maj. Julio Padilla, supply senior enlisted leader, 94th AAMDC, a Bronx, New York, native, and the G4 sergeant major. “It ensures that your medical, immunizations and administrative paper work is up-to-date.”

The SRP is very important, said Staff Sgt. Lehua Johnson, supply, 94th AAMDC.

“In the case of you deploying, you’re fit to go physically and mentally, plus all of your family and emergency contact data will be updated, and if anything happens to you while you’re downrange, your family will be taken care of,” said Johnson. “This is not my first time having to SRP, but it is for an exercise.”

SRP is broken into administrative and medical sections. When combined, they may take up to eight hours, depending on the areas of processing the Soldier may be required to complete in order to be deployment-ready.

During the administrative portion of the SRP, the Soldier visits several stations, including legal, chaplain, life insurance and security clearances. During each of these stations, a representative asks the Soldier if he or she has any new information to add or delete from the current information on file.

“Everything is equally important during SRP, but I think for me the Record of Emergency Data form, which is also known as the DD-93, is the most important document that you can have updated during this process,” Padilla said.

The medical section of the SRP includes several medical examinations, immunizations, drawing a



blood sample and a dental exam. Once completed, the Soldier meets with a health care provider to review all of the data collected on the Soldier throughout the SRP to determine the over-all deployable status of the Soldier.

EX: Fire resumes

CONTINUED FROM A-1

ny commander conduct his first CALFEX in combat,” said Col. Thomas Mackey, commander, 2nd SBCT. “So, we have provided them the opportunity to learn how to not only use the organic weapons systems they have within their company or their troop, but also then to add combined arms, so the commander can truly integrate and synchronize real, live, indirect or direct-fire in order to accomplish the mission laid out in front of them.”

Mackey said each company commander had his unit’s regular components: three infantry platoons, a mobile gun system platoon, a mortar section with two 120mm mortar systems, snipers and medical evacuation assets. Each company also had several enablers attached.

Additional contributions included tactical explosive detection dogs, an engineer squad, a Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle and artillery batteries from the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment.

The combined assets to the mission gave company commanders a greater span of control than they might normally have had.

“It gives them a chance to practice the way we fight, with all of the tools available,” Wolfe said. “A lot of times, you can run things in simulation and see how things work, but until you actually have all of the assets and see the potential friction points, you don’t see how things may be delayed or how you may have to change plans, accordingly. So, having this exercise makes the commander more agile and flexible than he probably would be on a traditional live fire.”

During the three weeks of “Warrior Spear,” each infantry battalion and the cavalry squadron sent its Soldiers to absorb invaluable experience available only through the CALFEX.

“Having done all nine infantry companies and all three cavalry troops, a tremendous amount of lessons have been learned by the organization, about how we integrate all these other arms into a combined arms team to effectively support maneuver,” Mackey said.

“I’m absolutely pleased with the work ethic, the willingness to learn and the results of the exercise. It will make us better in the future as we build upon this,” Mackey added.

Cultural awareness training prepares 3rd BCT

Story and photo by
1ST LT. ZACHARY KOHL
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Afghan experts were invited to help train Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, to increase cultural awareness, Feb. 14.

“The one thing that is really hard to teach to young Soldiers who are about to deploy is about the culture,” said Maj. Jason Webb, intelligence officer, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

The training involved Soldiers conducting key leader engagements with role players, the goal being to familiarize them with the customs and traditions of Afghan culture.

“At one point, I was like, darn, this actually feels like I am doing a key leader engagement,” said Spc. Christopher Sloan, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Inf. Regiment, 3rd BCT, of the realism provided by the training.

Even with the war in Afghanistan winding down, the training still has incredible value, explained Webb. The next conflict may take place in a nation with a culture very different from America. Soldiers will need to be able to relate to people from cultures foreign to their own.

“(Say) they don’t go to Afghanistan ... they end up in Kuwait or Japan or Korea. The point is that they realize they don’t know as much as they think they know,” said Webb. “What they were taught by their

family or their religious leaders or their friends when they grew up does not hold true for another place.”

Just as the Army has tough physical training, so too this training is designed to make Soldiers com-

fortable with unfamiliar situations. Like many difficult programs, this training is memorable.

“It is going to help the Soldiers in their lives and certainly their military careers,” said Webb.



Pfc. Christopher Sloan (middle), HHC, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt, 3rd BCT, 25th ID, shares tea with a native Afghan role player during a simulated key leader engagement at the 3rd BCT CAG Academy, Feb. 14.

Army-preferred Internet courses save money, satisfy demands

CHANEL WEAVER
U.S. Army Public Health Command Public Affairs

In an era of decreasing budgets and limited funds for travel, managers struggle to find ways to ensure they keep a highly trained and competent workforce.

Experts in the U.S. Army Public Health Command Occupational Health Sciences Portfolio are making it easier for Army workers to maintain credentials through use of an online training sys-

tem called Blackboard Learn.

The system, employed at various institutions of higher learning across the U.S., is becoming a preferred training tool for many Army industrial hygiene and safety personnel. With this Web technology, subject matter experts are able to deliver graduate-level training in 15 courses that are focused on core competencies in the Army safety and occupational health career program.

Courses include such topics as noise mea-

surement and assessment, blueprint reading and design review, environmental and indoor air quality, fundamentals of ventilation and ergonomics, just to name some.

Each course is based upon competencies defined by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, and many provide enrollees with continuing education units required to maintain certification in their respective career fields.

“Students no longer receive a large binder to

carry home and place on a shelf,” said Paula Steven, industrial hygiene training coordinator at the USAPHC. “Blackboard Learn allows us to upload all materials, and attendees simply print what they personally need.”

The success of the Blackboard Learn system has prompted USAPHC personnel to offer additional courses.

(Editor’s note: Read the complete story online at www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com.)



Chaplain (Capt.) Bryan Hodge, 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, flashes he’s okay after completing a front entry into the water. The certified diver and man of the cloth found a home with the Army divers of the 7th Dive Detachment.

Chaplain dives in

Story and photo by
1ST LT. CORTNEY HEAPS
65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade,
8th Theater Sustainment Command

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM — As the former chaplain to the 130th Engineer Brigade, the Bayonet family welcomes Chaplain (Capt.) Bryan Hodge to the 7th Dive Detachment, 65th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Bde., 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

During sergeants’ time training, Hodge jumped right in with the sappers of the deep and conducted underwater operations. As divers investigated murky waters for simulated improvised explosive devices, the Soldiers of the sea allowed the man of God to experience their training in all of its glory.

As a certified diver, Hodge is ready for integration into the 65th Eng. Bn., and he jumped into training with the divers immediately.

“I want to be there with the Soldiers in the battalion to show them that the chaplain is going to be a productive member of the Bayonet family,” said Hodge, who hopes to support the ranks as the battalion prepares for its upcoming deployment.

The Chaplain Corps

The word chaplain is derived from cappa, Latin for cloak. The spiritual guidance and sense of security provided by Army chaplains gives Soldiers security and spiritual guidance.

The mission of the Chaplains Corps is to provide religious support for all Soldiers and assist commanders in ensuring the right of free exercise of religion.

Currently, more than 2,900 Army chaplains serve, representing more than 130 different religious organizations. For as long as the Army has been around, chaplains have served alongside Soldiers, tending to their spiritual needs.

The Chaplains Corps is one of the smallest and oldest braches of the Army, dating back to 1775. Small but potent, chaplains are there for every Soldier and family members.

599th TSB conducts Warrior Week

Story and photos by
DONNA KLAPAKIS
599th Transportation Surface Brigade

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Transportation specialists of the 599th Transportation Surface Brigade take time for daily physical training like all other Soldiers, and they also have an annual Warrior Week dedicated to updating warrior tasks within the unit.

Staff Sgt. Jesus Grajales, terminal operations division, arranged the training and venues for Warrior Week 2013.

“Everyone gets all of their training in warrior tasks done at once this way, rather than spreading it throughout the year,” Grajales said. “We also build a closer camaraderie working with one another on these types of tasks for a solid week.”

Distinctive, but sometimes confused with best warrior competitions in which Soldiers compete for bragging rights, Warrior Week is dedicated to refreshing soldering skills and doesn’t involve a competition ... per se, that is.

The week began Feb. 19 with a morning road march, followed by height and weight measurements and weapons maintenance. In the afternoon, 599th leaders reported to the Training Audiovisual Support Center on Schofield Barracks to qualify on pistols at the range simulator, and executed rollover drills in the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer Simulator.

“In order to stay current on the pistol, we qualify two to four times a year,” Grajales said. “We don’t have enough manpower to support ourselves on a range. So, when we can, we piggyback with another unit. Here at the range simulator, we don’t need that support.”

While there was no real competition or award for best shooter, brigade Soldiers engaged in an ongoing, unofficial competition (and a good-natured, inter-service rivalry) at the pistol range amongst themselves, trying to exceed the score of the brigade’s deputy commanding officer, Air Force Lt. Col. Todd Toman, whose consistently high scores always set the bar high for everyone in the unit to surpass.

“I think the challenge to beat “the Air Force guy” is good. It makes them work harder to achieve high scores,” Toman said.

Wednesday began with combatives using the current method of hand-to-hand combat taught by the Army. Soldiers then performed pre-combat checks and inspections, followed by warrior training tasks.

Noncommissioned officers also took advantage of their stand down from their usual transportation mission to complete classes on suicide prevention, sexual harassment, the Army homosexual conduct



WAIMEA — Staff Sgt. Jesus Grajales (top), terminal operations noncommissioned officer, 599th Trans. Surface Bde, demonstrates combative moves with Staff Sgt. Raymond "Lee" Patterson, command operations center NCO in charge, 599th Trans. Surface Bde., during combatives training at Waimea Beach, Feb. 20.



Capt. Paul Conrad, commander, HHB, 599th Trans. Surface Bde., exits the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer Simulator at the Training Audiovisual Support Center, Feb. 19, during the unit’s Warrior Week. The simulator permits cost-effective training for smaller units, on their schedules, instead of waiting to share range time with larger units.

policy and operations security and antiterrorism awareness.

Civilians at the 599th joined Soldiers for mandatory classes.

“We are all one team, and we have to train as we fight. That includes all members, civilian and military,” said Col. Gust Pagonis, 599th commander.

The final day of Warrior Week saw the first postponement. Soldiers were unable to hike the Maunawili Falls trail near Kailua because of dangerous conditions after three

days of heavy rain.

For lunch, the entire brigade got together for its monthly Iron Chef potluck, after which Soldiers and civilians underwent their master resiliency and equal opportunity training.

“This week was a great opportunity to step away from our desks and our normal op tempo to focus on basic skills that we need to maintain as Soldiers,” said Capt. Paul Conrad, commander, 599th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment.



VILSECK, Germany — Anticipating an upcoming PCS, Lia Kirch and son, Konner, bring their dog, Snyder, and cat, Nattie, to the Vilseck Veterinary Treatment Facility, here, for shots. Community members moving to Germany may now be required to pay a fee for bringing their pets into the country. (Photo by Chelsea Bissell, U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs)

German fees greet PCS

U.S. ARMY-EUROPE
Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Members of the U.S. forces community who bring their pets along when they arrive in Germany for assignment are now charged a fee by German authorities, effective Feb. 1.

The fee will be charged during arrivals at Ramstein Air Base and Frankfurt International Airport.

At Ramstein, an examination fee of 55 Euro per pet owner will be charged for all pets imported into Germany from outside the European Union. Kaiserslautern County officials said the fee is being levied in accordance with European Union regulations designed to prevent the introduction and dissemination of rabies.

Upon arrival at Ramstein, pets will be examined by veterinary officials near the passenger terminal’s baggage claim area. Owners may pay the fee by credit card only.

Owners arriving with their pets at Frankfurt International Airport will also pay a fee. That fee is 35 Euro per accompanied pet or 55 Euro for an unaccompanied pet; it increases by 50 percent for pets that arrive on a weekend or holiday.

Payment of the fee is the responsibility of the pet owner, and cannot be claimed for reimbursement on an official travel voucher, according to officials with the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Judge Advocate. However, while OJA experts said the fee is prohibited from reimbursement under the provisions of the DOD Joint Travel Regulations, pet owners may be able to claim the fee as a deductible moving expense on their federal income tax returns.

While Ramstein and Frankfurt are the only locations to begin imposing the fee, because the fee is based on EU regulation, other European Union ports of entry could enact similar fees in the future.



Send announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

2 / Saturday
Combatives Tournament — Tripler Army Medical Center hosts its 2nd Combatives Tournament, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., March 2-3, at the Fort Shafter gym.

Tournament is open to all military branches. Contact Sgt. Dominique Ramos at Dominiue.Berridge@us.army.mil or 433-1887.

4 / Monday
Housing Office Hours — Due to training requirements, the Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Housing Services offices will have limited staffing and provide limited service during the week of March 4-8.

During the week, both offices will close for lunch between noon-1 p.m., and at Schofield Barracks, customers not signed in by 3 p.m. must return the following day. Please plan accordingly. Call 438-1518.

Fitness Center Closure — Nautilus equipment in Weight Room #1 at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 665, will be closed from March 4-12 for lighting system replacement. Call 438-1152.

9 / Saturday
Schofield Power Outage — An outage is scheduled 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. for the following buildings: 695 (Pharmacy), 699A (credit union), 699, and the Medical Clinic portable trailer offices. Call 835-4522.

Also on March 9, the following sections of Area A housing

will experience a scheduled outage 7:30-11:30 a.m.: Belcher, Young and Yabes courts; Quarters 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38. Call 655-0591.

13 / Wednesday
Money Management Forum — A free financial readiness forum for service members and families takes place 9:30-11:30 a.m. at ACS, Bldg. 2091, Schofield Barracks. Learn strategies for smart saving and investing, key elements of a successful financial plan, ways to manage debt and increase your credit score, and more. Seating is limited. RSVP at 655-4227.

15 / Friday
Wheeler Road Closure —Wright Avenue between Sperry Loop and Lilienthal Road to Warhawk Field Road (near the Hawaii National Guard parking lot entrance) will be fully closed 24/7, March 15-April 19, for construction.

The following traffic control measures will be implemented during two phases of closure:

- Phase one is closure of Wright Avenue/Warhawk Field Road from Peterson Court to Hawaii National Guard parking lot entrance;
- Phase two is closure of Wright Avenue from Lilienthal Road to Peterson Court.
- Detours include Santos Dumont, Fernandez Avenue and Vought Avenue.

Please note that the project schedule is subject to change pending weather delays and unknown underground conditions. Call 656-2420.

Schofield Traffic Detours — Traffic will be impacted on Schofield, March 15-28 for resurfacing. Lyman Road (between the Gate and Flagler roads) will be closed 8 p.m.-4 a.m. Traffic will be detoured through Foote Gate. Normal traffic on Lyman will be restored during the day.

Emergency access to Bldgs. 3010 and 3026 will be from existing temporary driveway west of Flagler Road off Lyman

Road. Call 656-3295.

23 / Saturday
Multiple Scheduled Power Outages — Outages affecting Schofield Barracks areas from Lyman Road to the post cemetery are scheduled 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. for the following buildings: 2605, 2606, (Burger King and Popeye’s), 2400, 2408, 2428, 2420, 2440, 2446, 2448, 2459, 2460, 2480, 2488, 2509, 2510, 934, 930, 936, 935, 2810-2818, 950, 2805, 910, 2802, 2800, 3026, 3021, 3010, 3004, 3005, 3040-3050.

Buildings 3021, 3026 and 3010 will be out until 3:30 p.m.

Bldg. 1020 will experience an outage 7 a.m.-2 p.m. The fire lane behind Bldg. 1020 may be used temporarily (during the outage) by the contractor. Call 655-0591.

28 / Thursday
Veterans Forum — The 2013 Hawaii Veterans and Small Business Forum & Expo takes place at the Hale Koa Hotel, Thursday, featuring keynote speakers and presenters from various veteran-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran small businesses, prime contractors, state and federal agencies.

Breakout sessions will include topics on how to work with the federal government, Service Contract Act, joint ventures, GSA versus commercial, ethics in contracting, 8(a) certification, SDVOSB certifications, and general panel discussions. The deadline to register is March 21.

Register online at <http://hip.tac.ecenterdirect.com/Conferences.action> or call 596-8990, ext. 1008, or 596-8990, ext. 1007.

Ongoing

Road Detour — Lyman Road (between Hewitt Road and Carpenter Street) is closed 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. until March 23. Traffic detours through Hewitt and Trimble roads and Carpenter Street. Call 656-3295.



(Photos have been altered from their original form to create a collage.)

State’s native ecosystems are under attack by some very unsuspecting subjects

KIMBERLY WELCH

Oahu Army Natural Resources Program,
Directorate of Public Works,
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

HONOLULU — Carnivorous wolf snails, Jackson’s chameleons, pigs, goats, deer, fountain grass, strawberry guava, rats, slugs, devil weed, ants, coqui frogs, sheep.

This listing is an abbreviated one of some of the most destructive human introductions to Hawaii’s native ecosystems to date.

Some were intentional introductions, while others were accidental hitchhikers on incoming cargo.

Regardless of why they were brought here, these introduced plants and animals (and hundreds more) have proven to be highly invasive species in Hawaii’s natural ecosystems.

Invasive species, also known as “pests” or

“exotics,” are plants and/or animals that have been introduced into a new environment and have aggressively adapted to conditions in the wild.

And while not every non-native species becomes an invasive pest, many do.

Once established here, these introduced species enjoy a true Hawaiian vacation. They rapidly increase in numbers because they are free from the constraints of their homeland, such as extreme weather, disease and natural predators.

The Hawaii State Department of Agriculture

Invasive Species

For further information on destructive plants and animals introduced to the Hawaiian Islands, visit the following organizations and their websites:

- U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Environmental Compliance Guide, www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/sustainability/AtoZ/PetOwnership.pdf.
- U.S. Army-Hawaii Sustainability and Environmental Management, www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/sustainability/NaturalResources.aspx.
- Hawaii Invasive Species Partnerships, www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org.
- State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture, hdoa.hawaii.gov.



The endangered kahuli tree snail, like the ones pictured above, are a favorite snack of several invasive species, including a carnivorous snail! (Photos courtesy Oahu Army Natural Resources Program)

regulates the importation of new species, which are evaluated based on the risk they pose and their history of invasiveness worldwide.

Importation of reptiles is prohibited because Hawaii has no native reptiles. The destruction caused by invasive reptiles in other places, such as Guam (brown tree snake) and Florida (python), is well known.

The Hawaii Weed Risk Assessment is a tool used to evaluate the invasive potential of plant species. Plants scoring high on the HWRA are

likely to become destructive influences on the native landscape.

Natural resource managers and technicians are in the field every day, battling invasive species that are already established. Additional support from the community, focused on preventing the spread of new or existing invasive species, would go a long way toward winning the fight to protect Oahu’s native plants and animals.

(Editor’s note: Welch is an environmental outreach specialist with OANRP.)

Hawaii’s Most Wanted Invasive Species

Listed herein is a rundown of some of the most destructive invasive plant and animal species found in Hawaii, along with what you, the public, can do to help.

If you sight an invasive species, contact the Oahu Army Natural Resources Program at 656-7741.

Name: Rosy Wolf Snail (*Euglandina rosea*)

Native to: Florida

How’d it get here: Intentionally introduced in the 1950s to control the giant African snail, another introduced mollusk. With little to no predators here to keep it in check, the rosy wolf snail has roamed far and beyond its original sites and can now be found in some of Oahu’s most remote native forests.

Crimes committed: Eats Hawaii’s native snails, including the endangered kahuli tree snail, which only exists in very small numbers on Oahu.

What OANRP is doing: Staff build predator barriers loaded with deterrents in areas where rosy wolf snails threaten endangered Hawaiian kahuli tree snails.

What you can do: N/A

Name: Jackson’s Chameleon (*Chamaeleo jacksonii*, subspecies *xantholophus*)

Native to: Kenya and Tanzania

How’d it get here: Brought in through the pet trade in the ‘70s under a legal pet store import permit, the Jackson’s chameleons escaped from the store owner’s property and today thrive in the wild island-wide.

Crimes committed: Eats native Hawaiian insects and mollusks, including the endan-

gered kahuli tree snail.

What OANRP is doing: The Army funds research on Jackson’s chameleons’ eating habits on Oahu and builds predator barriers to keep them out of endangered kahuli habitat.

What you can do: It is illegal to release Jackson’s chameleons into the wild. If you have a pet Jackson’s chameleon and no longer wish to keep it, contact the Hawaii Department of Agriculture at 643-PEST (7378), or the University of Hawaiian Tree Snail Conservation Lab at 956-6176.

Name: Devil Weed (*Chromolaena odorata*)

Native to: Central America

How’d it get here: Abundant in Guam, the plant likely hitched a ride to Kahuku Training Area via military vehicles or personal gear.

Crimes committed: Toxic to humans, animals and even other plants, devil weed can grow up to 12 feet tall and produce 800,000 seeds in a year.

What OANRP is doing: The Army has spent a large amount of time and money controlling the infestation at KTA since the plant was first discovered in 2011. More than \$125,000 will be spent this year to continue control efforts. Also, staff constantly conduct weed surveys along roads and trails, and in the forest, to detect weeds in new locations on Army lands.

What you can do: Prevent devil weed from spreading. Motocross bikes should be hosed thoroughly before entering and exiting Kahuku motocross track, and Soldiers should wash all vehicles and personal gear prior to exiting KTA.

Reserve a wash rack with Range Control when making reservations to train on the range.

Name: Fountain Grass (*Cenchrus setaceus*)

Native to: Africa

How’d it get here:

Intentionally introduced as an ornamental landscape plant, fountain grass recently spread to steep cliffs on Ohikilolo Ridge above Makua, likely by trespassing hikers.

Crimes committed: Fuels brush fires, causing fires to become more frequent and destructive. Fountain grass is easily spread by wind, animals and people and is extremely invasive. It’s out-competing native Hawaiian plants for areas to grow.

What OANRP is doing: The Army has treated the incipient fountain grass population in Makua via aerial helicopter sprays. Staff constantly conducts weed surveys along roads, trails and the forest to detect weeds in new locations on Army land.

What you can do: Prevent fountain grass from spreading. Be sure to thoroughly wash boots and gear after hiking at spots such as Diamond Head Crater and Lanikai Bunkers, where the grass is located, in order to prevent hitchhiking seeds from entering new areas.

Name: Feral Pig (*Sus scrofa*)

Native to: Europe

How’d it get here: The smaller, docile Polynesian variety (typical pot-bellied pig) was brought to Hawaii on the first voyaging canoes as early as 400 A.D. Larger, more aggressive

European varieties were brought in 1778 with the arrival of Captain James Cook.

Crimes committed: Without predators or herbivore competitors, pigs adapted well to the Hawaiian wet forest and rapidly established large feral populations (a single pair and their offspring can, theoretically, produce 15,000 pigs in five years).

Pigs knock down and feed on native understory plants and roto-till the forest floor to get earthworms and other grubs; however, disturbed earth collects rainwater, providing the perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes that can transmit avian malaria to native forest birds.

What OANRP is doing: Staff build fences to keep pigs out of forest ecosystems, and fenced areas are kept pig-free through hunting and regular monitoring trips.

What you can do: N/A

Name: Rats (*Rattus species*)

Native to: India, Mongolia and Indo-Malaysian region

How’d it get here: Three species of rats arrived in Hawaii as stowaways over time: The Polynesian rat arrived in the 5th century on the first canoes to reach the Islands, while the Norway rat and black rat arrived on European ships in the 1800s.

Crimes committed: Feeds on native birds and their eggs, native plants (including fruits and seeds), native tree snails and native insects.

What OANRP is doing: Rat-proof barriers are constructed around endangered populations of Hawaiian tree snails, and large-scale trapping grids are placed around populations of endangered plants and the elepaio, an endangered native Hawaiian forest bird.

What you can do: N/A



(Photos have been altered from their original form.)





Briefs

Today

Army Hawaii Indoor Soccer Tournament — Entry deadline is March 15; tournament runs April 1-30, Martinez PFC. Call 655-0856 for applications.

2 / Saturday

Ladies Golf Clinic — Held the first Saturday of every month, the Women’s Golf Clinic is geared toward the beginner golfer, with PGA professionals on hand, 1:30-3 p.m., March 2, at Leilehua Golf Course. Call 655-4653.

4 / Monday

Water Aerobics — Starting March 4, get fit with water aerobics, 4-4:45 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, at the Tripler Pool (433-5257); and Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at the HMR Pool (653-0716).

6 / Wednesday

Easter Egg Painting — Paint Easter eggs, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, throughout the month of March, at the SB Arts and Crafts Center. Call 655-4202.

Ceramic Mold Pouring Class — Learn to make your own ceramic pieces, 9 a.m.-noon, SB Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$25 and includes supplies.

BOSS Meetings — Single Soldiers and geographic bachelors are invited to Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings every Wednesday to discuss community service projects and fun upcoming programs. Call 655-1130.

•North meetings, 3 p.m., every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, Tropics Warrior Zone.

•South meetings, 10 a.m., every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, AMR Chapel.

Preschool Story Time — Take your toddlers to story time, Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Sgt. Yano Library, SB; different theme and story each week. Call 655-4707.

Holy Week, Easter Services

The U.S. Army Hawaii community is invited to attend various Easter celebrations now through April 7. The U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Religious Support Office offers services in north and south Oahu areas.

March 1, 8, 15 and 22

5:30 p.m., WAAF, Stations of the Cross (*Catholic*)

6 p.m., AMR, Stations of the Cross (*Catholic*)

March 3

6 p.m., AMR, Lent Reconciliation (*Catholic*)

March 4

6 p.m., WAAF, Lent Reconciliation (*Catholic*)

March 23

5 p.m., MPC, Palm Sunday Mass (*Catholic*)

March 24

8:30 a.m., AMR, Palm Sunday Mass (*Catholic*)

10:30 a.m., MPC, Palm Sunday Mass (*Catholic*)

March 28

7 p.m., AMR, Holy Thursday Mass (*Catholic*)

7 p.m., WAAF, Holy Thursday Mass (*Catholic*)

(Both are followed by Adoration, until 8:30 p.m.)

March 29

Noon, MPC Lanai, Good Friday Living Stations of the Cross (*Catholic*)

3 p.m., AMR, Good Friday Service (*Catholic*)

3 p.m., MPC, Good Friday Service (*Catholic*)

6 p.m., AMR, Good Friday Service (*Protestant & Gospel*)

6 p.m., MPC, Good Friday Service (*Gospel*)

March 29-31

AMR, Divine Mercy Novena (*Catholic*)

March 30

11:30 a.m., MPC Lanai, Holy Saturday Easter Blessing of Food (*Catholic*)

7 p.m., MPC, Easter Vigil Mass (*Catholic*)

March 31

6:30 a.m., MPC, Easter Sunrise Service (*Protestant*)

8:30 a.m., AMR, Easter Sunday Mass (*Catholic*)

10:30 a.m., MPC, Easter Sunday Mass (*Catholic*)

April 7

3 p.m., WAAF, Divine Mercy Devotion (*Catholic*)

For more information, call the Religious Support Office at 655-8731.

Legend

AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation

MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks

WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

Ongoing

7 / Thursday

Texas Hold’em — All ID card-holders 18 and older are invited to test their skills against the best of the best Army players, 6-8 p.m., March 7, at the Tropics Warrior Zone. Entry is free, with no buy-in. Enjoy the tropical atmosphere and featured menu items. Call 655-5698.

13 / March

Financial Readiness Forum — Learn strategies for smart saving and investing, key elements of successful financial planning, ways to manage debt and increase your credit score, considerations for retirement and transition, and how to avoid scams and other problems at this free financial readiness forum, 9:30-11:30 a.m., March 13, at Army Community Service, Bldg. 2091, SB.

Presented by FINRA Investor Education Foundation, the event is open to all armed services, including Reserves, National Guard, retirees, DOD/DHS civilian employees and their spouses.

Seating is limited. Call 655-4227.

Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) — Would you like to know how to keep your neighborhood safe? Interested in starting an NWP? It’s a simple process that takes initiative and personal responsibility. Email NWP@IPChawaii.com.

Intramurals — Visit himwr.com for sports applications and Army Hawaii Intramural Sports announcements. Call 655-0856.

•Basketball League — Army men’s and women’s competitions run through March 29.

•Soccer League — At Takata Field, FS, and TAMC fields; runs through March 29.

Renovation — SB Health and Fitness Center renovation is underway, resulting in transfer of activities and classes to Martinez PFC.

Renovations include installing two new saunas, repairing portions of the facility floor, replacing all windows and painting the interior walls. Call

655-8789/8007.

FS Cosmic Bowling — Every Saturday, from 7:30-11:30 p.m., eat, dance and bowl with DJ Derek Walker. Call 438-6733.

Military Special — Bowl a free game when you make a purchase over \$6 from Wheeler Bowl’s snack bar. Must have receipt. Game must be used same day as snack bar purchase. Cannot be combined with additional discounts or offers. Call 656-1745.

Pool Tournament — Join this popular 8-ball weekly competition on Tuesdays; game starts at 6 p.m., Tropics Warrior Zone. Best 2 of 3 plays for the championship title the last Tuesday of the month. Free to play; call 655-5698.

New Gym Hours — New HMR and AMR physical fitness center hours are 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Mondays-Fridays. The gym is closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Call HMR at 653-0719 or AMR at 836-0338.

community Calendar

Send announcements a week prior to publication to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

Today

Friendship Gala — Features exciting cultural entertainment by Honolulu Festival performers and cuisine from Oahu’s top restaurants, 6:30-8:30 p.m., March 1, at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Tickets cost \$90 per person, \$70 for those under 21 years, free for children under 6. Call 833-3378 or visit www.honolulufestival.com.

“A Spring Celebration” — The Marine Forces Pacific Band presents a free, live concert, 6 p.m., March 1, at the Hale Koa Hotel Luau Garden.

2 / Saturday

Hawaiian Culture Workshops — The Native Hawaiian Liaison Office offers new cultural classes Saturdays, starting March 2, with a discussion on local fishing techniques, locations and traditions, 11 a.m., then a weaving workshop, 2 p.m., both at Sgt. Yano Library, SB. Call 392-1617 or visit www.hawaiianliaison.com.

Honolulu Theater for Youth — Acclaimed off-Broadway drama “Hold These Truths,” inspired by true stories of second-generation Japanese-Americans in World War II

internment, concludes March 2, at Hawaii Theatre. Tickets may be ordered online at www.htyweb.org or call 839-9885.

PACK Performance — Students from the Performing Arts Center of Kapolei (PACK) present a special performance of songs from the musical “Seussical,” 10:30 a.m., March 2, in the children’s section of Kapolei Public Library, in celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday and Read Across America.

The 30-minute performance will be followed by a photo op with cast members, with a free Dr. Seuss goodie bag for keiki. Call 693-7030.

Combatives Tournament — TAMC hosts its 2nd annual Combatives Tournament, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., March 2-3, at the FS gym.

Tournament is open to all military branches. Contact Sgt. Dominique Ramos at Dominique.Berridge@us.army.mil or 433-1887.

Honolulu Festival — Enjoy performances and free exhibits from the people and cultures of Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Tahiti, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii, complete with children’s activities and games, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., March 2, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m., March 3, at the Hawaii Convention Center, DFS Galleria and Waikiki Beach Walk.

Visit www.honolulufestival.com or call 833-3378.

Korean American Foundation Hawaii — Commemorates the

110th anniversary of Korean immigration to Hawaii with the concert “Seulgi-doong: Korean Rhapsody,” 7 p.m., March 2, at the Hawaii Convention Center. Admission is \$10 donation. Call 358-7488.

3 / Sunday

Women’s 10K — Hawaii Pacific Health holds its 36th annual Women’s 10K race, 7 a.m., March 3, at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. This women’s-only race is open to runners, walkers and stroller-pushers of all ages. Proceeds benefit women’s health services at Hawaii Pacific Health’s nonprofit hospitals.

Registration is \$60 (in person at packet pick-up, March 2, or race day, 5:30-6:30 a.m., March 3). Visit www.hawaiiipacifichealth.org/womens10k/.

Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden — Runners are invited to race through Waikiki in Hawaii’s very first “Ekiden” (long-distance relay) race, beginning at noon, March 3, Waikiki.

Visit www.honolulu ekiden.com.

Girls Day Fishing Derby — Both girls and boys, ages 4-17, are invited to take part in two fishing event categories (longest fish and most midas cichlids), and family and friends are welcome to participate in the catch-and-release fishing program, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., March 3, at Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe.

No casting is allowed, and fishing participants should come prepared

with handheld poles (bamboo poles available at Hoomaluhia), barb-less hooks and non-live bait.

Walking shoes, insect repellent, water and lunch are recommended. Call 233-7323.

Waikiki Grand Parade — The Honolulu Festival ends with a grand parade featuring performers and floats, starting at 4:30 p.m., March 3, along Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki. The spectacular Nagaoka Fireworks Show follows at 8:30 p.m. Visit www.honolulufestival.com or call 833-3378.

7 / Thursday

Free Magic Classes — Kalihi-Palama Library, 6 p.m., on the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December). Sponsored by Hawaii Magicians Society; visit www.hawaiimagicclub.com or call 234-5262.

9 / Saturday

The Beast 10K — Take a running tour of Marine Corps Base Hawaii with this 10K race, 7 a.m., March 9, with start and finish at Dewey Square aboard MCBH, Kaneohe Bay. Online registration closes March 5. Visit http://mccshawaii.com/races/.

Makahiki Challenge — Test your physical and mental toughness over hills, rough terrain, mud pits and more in this 5K obstacle/mud run, 9 a.m., March 9, at Kualoa Ranch. Open to everyone age 15 and older; limited space is available. Visit www.makahikichallenge.com.

worship Services

Additional religious services, children’s programs, educational services and contact information can be found at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil. (Click on “Religious Support Office” under the “Directorates and Support Staff” menu.)

- AMR: Aliamanu Chapel
- FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel
- HMR: Helemano Chapel
- MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks
- PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor
- SC: Soldiers’ Chapel, Schofield Barracks
- TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel
- WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

Buddhist Services

•First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD

•Fourth Sunday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex

Catholic Mass

•Thursday, 9 a.m. at AMR

•Saturday, 5 p.m. at TAMC, WAAF

•Sunday services:

- 8:30 a.m. at AMR
- 10:30 a.m. at MPC Annex
- 10:45 a.m. at WAAF (Spanish language)
- 11 a.m. at TAMC

•Monday-Friday, 11:45 a.m. at MPC and 12 p.m.TAMC

Gospel Worship

•Sunday, noon, at MPC

•Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

Islamic Prayers and Study

•Friday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex

•Friday, 2:30 p.m., TAMC

•Saturday and Sunday, 5:30 a.m.; 6, 7 and 8 p.m. at MPC Annex

Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)

•Friday, 7:30 p.m. at PH

Pagan (Wicca)

•Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex Room 232

Protestant Worship

•Sunday Services

- 8:45 a.m. at MPC
- 9 a.m., at FD, WAAF and TAMC chapels

•Lutheran/Episcopalian

- 10 a.m. at HMR
- 10:30 a.m. at AMR

•Contemporary Service

- 11 a.m. at Soldiers Chapel

This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater

Call 624-2585 for movie listings or go to aafes.com under realtime movie listing.



Broken City

(R)

Fri., March 1, 6 p.m.

Thurs., March 7, 6 p.m.

Rise of the Guardians

(PG-13)

Sat., March 2, 2 p.m.

Studio Appreciation Advance Screening – Free Admission

(R)

Sat., March 2, 6 p.m.

Seating open to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to show time

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

(PG-13)

Sun., March 3, 2 p.m.

No shows on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Calendar abbreviations

- 8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command
- 25th ID: 25th Infantry Division
- ACS: Army Community Service
- AFAP: Army Family Action Plan
- AFTB: Army Family Team Building
- AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation

- ASYMCA: Armed Services YMCA
- BCT: Brigade Combat Team
- BSB: Brigade Support Battalion
- Co.: Company
- CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services
- EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program
- FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare and

- Recreation
- FRG: Family Readiness Group
- FS: Fort Shafter
- HMR: Helemano Military Reservation
- IPC: Island Palm Communities
- PFC: Physical Fitness Center
- SB: Schofield Barracks

- SKIES: Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills
- TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center
- USAG-HI: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii
- USARPAC: U.S. Army-Pacific
- WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield



1st Lt. Courtney Heaps (third from left), 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, poses for a photo with students and teachers from Po'okela Center for Education Excellence, as well as Evergreen workers, at the end of the school's field trip to WAAF, Feb. 13. (Photo courtesy 65th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command)

Exceptional kids have exceptional trip on WAAF

1ST LT. COURTNEY HEAPS
65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade,
8th Theater Sustainment Command

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Soldiers from the 65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, escorted students from the Po’okela Center for Educational Excellence on a field trip here, Feb. 13, to meet the people who work for Evergreen Helicopters.

The center, located at Mililani Middle School, concentrates on special education development. The excitement was almost too much to contain in one van. Children talked to one another as the sounds of the band One Direction blared through headphones of another student.

All the while, the teachers smiled, because they realized that their students would be able to do something that they might never have the opportunity to do again.

Marine Capt. Graham Perry, a reservist in the Marine Corps, awaited the students’ arrival. As soon as the students stepped off the van, they ran up to him and leaped with joy as they proceeded to the helicopter.

“I can see the helicopter!” said student Kainoa Vallente. “I want to fly helicopters and do what you guys do!”

Throughout the trip, Perry explained the major ins and outs of helicopters. Students interacted with staff and climbed all over the helicopters, including into the pilot seat.

“Communication skills are very important to the children, and just getting them out and socializing is more than we can ask for,” said Malia Seward, primary teacher for the students. “Plus, they just love getting out of the classroom.”

Smiles and laughter filled the helicopter as children explored every nook and cranny.

According to Seward, to see the excitement that consumed the children’s faces while they experienced something for the

first time was a priceless moment for everyone.

Indeed, the students were in high spirits the entire time and would have stayed the entire day, if Evergreen had had the time.

“Anything that we can do to help is our pleasure,” said Perry. “They are having the best time.”

The 65th Eng. Bn. sponsors Mililani Middle School, and Maj. Shawn Patrick, former training officer for the 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bn., arranged the helicopter experience after receiving a little written encouragement from Seward’s class.

The students wrote Patrick a letter saying how excited they were for a helicopter experience. Once he received the letter, he immediately called a friend from Evergreen Helicopters, and a few short weeks later, he made sure that his promise was fulfilled.

The children left the helicopter visit with dreams fulfilled and communication skills improved. Teachers were able to take a break, as well.

The military and the 65th Eng. Bn. are thanked all the time for their service, but the teachers are far too often overlooked, said Soldiers of the 65th.

The 65th Engineers thank the teachers of Mililani Middle School and Po’okela Center for Educational Excellence for their hard work. Their dedication to children does not go unnoticed.

Registration begins for kindergarten classes

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE
Child, Youth and School Services;
Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare
and Recreation; U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

HONOLULU — Starting school is a very exciting time for both children and parents, which is why the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) is encouraging all parents to register their children for junior or regular kindergarten for the 2013-14 school year as soon as possible.

Children born in 2008 are eligible for the program, and parents are encouraged to register in March or April.

The cutoff age to enter kindergarten varies across the U.S. In Hawaii, children who will turn 5 years old between Jan. 1-Aug. 1, 2013, may enroll in regular kindergarten, while children who will be 5 between Aug. 2-Dec. 31, 2013, may enroll in junior kindergarten.

Although kindergarten is not mandatory in Hawaii, all Army families are highly encouraged to consider registering for the program.

“Kindergarten is important because children have the opportunity to academically learn with peers their age, comprehend social practices and exercise how to get along/work with others,” said Jessica Kotomori, a kindergarten teacher at Shafter Elementary School.

“Kindergarten is a good start to their school career,” she added. “We lay a good foundation for school readiness skills, so they will become successful life-long learners.”

Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) offers the Strong Beginnings Program at its child development centers. Strong Beginnings Pre-K is the Army initiative designed to prepare children for kindergarten.

“The program has a greater academic focus covering science, math, language/literacy, social studies and physical fitness, preparing the whole child for school success,” said Mindy Barnes, assistant director at the Schofield Barracks CDC. “The children get very excited about the graduation ceremony, which includes caps, gowns and diplomas. The ceremony marks

their transition from pre-K to kindergarten.”

The CYSS Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) offers preschool writing and reading once per week.

Also, the Wheeler Armed Services YMCA offers “Parent Participation Preschool” for children ages 3-4, designed to help preschool children make a smooth transition into the structure of kindergarten with parents right by their side.

Registration

Parents registering their child for kindergarten must provide schools with the following documents:

- Birth certificate;
- Proof of residency (housing papers, utility bill, etc.); and
- Medical records, including immunizations, physical exam and tuberculosis test.

Information will be transferred onto the HIDOE Student’s Health Record (Form 14).

For more information about the kindergarten program, visit www.doe.k12.hi.us or call the School Liaison Office at 655-8326.

Good Beginnings Alliance

Beginning in school year 2014-15, the cutoff dates for children entering kindergarten in Hawaii will change to Jan. 1- July 31.

Additionally, every year starting in 2014, about 5,000 children will no longer have access to junior kindergarten.

The Good Beginnings Alliance (Every Keiki Deserves a Good Beginning) has started the campaign “Be My Voice Hawaii,” advocating the legislature to fund preschool for every 4-year-old.

The group is asking for help spreading the word at the website www.bemyvoicehawaii.org.



Gary Sinise (on electric bass guitar) and Mitch Paliga (on saxophone) take center stage during the Lt. Dan Band concert at Martinez Gym, Saturday. The purpose of the concert was to help boost morale and show appreciation for military service members and their families.

Lt. Dan Band, Soldiers, families rock out on SB

Story and photo by

SPC. ARIANA CARY

25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The lights dim and the crowd roars.

The anticipation is obvious.

Suddenly, Gary Sinise is standing center stage under the rotating, multicolored lights as the rest of the Lt. Dan Band takes its places and prepares to perform a free concert for Soldiers and their families at the Martinez Gym, here, Saturday.

As cheers from the audience grow louder, the band plays from a variety of hits, from new songs, such as “Part of Me” by Katy Perry, to older standbys, like “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” by the Charlie Daniels Band.

Kids in the audience get a special treat when they are invited on stage with the band during the song “Life is a Highway” by Tom Cochrane.

The Lt. Dan Band is a cover band led and founded by Sinise in 2004.

The band consists of 12 members, with Sinise on electric bass guitar, Ernie Denov on electric guitar, Ben Lewis on keyboards, Kirk Garrison on trumpet and Mitch Paliga on saxophone.

Danny Gottlieb plays the drums, while his wife, Beth Gottlieb, plays percussion.

Rounding out the group are Mari Anne Jayme, Julie Dutchak, Molly Callinan, Dan Myers (also violin) and Jeff Vezain (also acoustic guitar), who provide vocals.

Together, the band travels to military bases around the world to support troops and show appreciation for the sacrifices made by service members and their families.

“My whole purpose of being here is to make sure service members know that I’m grateful for what they do for us and the freedom that they provide is not taken for granted,” Sinise said. “I’m out there just to help boost the morale.”

Sinise has always been surrounded by veterans, he said. His father was in the Navy, and his grandfather was a veteran of World War I. His two uncles also were both World War II veterans.

“I have great respect for veterans,” Sinise said. “I’m trying to do what I can to help our active duty folks get through long deployments and tough times.”

Out of love and respect for veterans, Sinise also founded the Gary Sinise Foundation, which is dedicated to helping veterans through various programs, such as “Building for America’s Bravest,” a program partnering with the Tunnel to Towers Foundation to help build smart homes for severely wounded warriors.

“I value what they do,” Sinise said of service members. “I care about them. I think it’s important ... they’re serving their country, they go into harm’s way or a loved one isn’t home.

“The more people show appreciation, the more they can feel that what they’re going through is not taken for granted by the Americans who benefit from the freedom that our service members are providing,” Sinise said.

8th TSC’s senior NCO team wins 2013 Swamp Romp

STAFF SGT. GAELEN LOWERS

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — Service members from all branches competed in the 2013 Swamp Romp, held at Kaneohe Bay, here, Feb. 16.

Teams of six crawled through the mud and over obstacles, sped down wooden slides and into ponds, and then struggled across the beach.

Some came for the fun and camaraderie, but one team in particular clearly came to win.

“We tried last year and came up short,” said Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Napier, the senior enlisted plans adviser for the 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

“But this year,” Napier added, “we put a team together and got first! I can’t even describe the pride I have in that.”



Participants jump over an obstacle during the 19th annual Swamp Romp, which took competitors through a grueling five miles of mud, obstacles and exhilaration. (Photo by Sgt. Marcus Fichtl, 8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command)

Napier’s team won the men’s masters division, which required the members’ combined ages be more than 211 years.

“My age alone counted for more than 50 of that!” joked Sgt. Maj. Rob Canterbury, the senior logistics adviser for the 8th TSC.

Napier said this race meant more than just an award; it was a chance to show their peers and Soldiers they were willing to go the extra mile for fitness and fun.

“You get a group over 40 years old ... seniors ... one foot in the grave, and take them through the mud and the swamp for



The 8th TSC's sergeants major team of (from left) Sgt. Maj. Charles Wells, Sgt. Maj. Rob Canterbury, Command Sgt. Maj. Tose Tia, Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Napier and Master Sgt. Robert Rowsam won first place in the men's masters division of the 2013 Swamp Romp, held at MCBH, Feb. 16. (Photo courtesy Yelp!)

five miles — a lot of people think that we should’ve been the last group to cross the finish line,” he said.

Napier added that everyone in the Army trains to run the two-mile event during the Army Physical Fitness Test, but both NCOs and junior enlisted need to think beyond that.

“We got to have that challenge,” he said. “Running this race and then the Great Aloha Run two days later, it speaks volumes of the heart and mental toughness that the senior Noncommissioned Officer Corps has.”

Although team members were excited about their accomplishment and are already planning for next year’s race, some are just happy to have completed this one.

“I ran two swamp romps that day, my first and my last!” joked Sgt. Maj. Charles Wells, senior enlisted adviser for support operations for the 8th TSC. “But the memories and friends I made that day will last forever.”